A Review of Contributions to the Western Journal of Agricultural Economics: 1977–81

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In this study a complete survey of all *WJAE* articles was conducted. The 158 titles that have appeared in the *WJAE* as of December 1981 are categorized by institutional category, authorship affiliation, and subject category. These results are compared to similar studies concerning the *SJAE* and *AJAE*. Our findings indicate that the *WJAE* has a broad range of contributors and is not dominated by any one institution, author, or group of authors. We feel that these and other interesting results are of general interest to all *WJAE* readers.

Agricultural economists with an interest in the study and application of economics to agricultural problems in the Western United States and Western Canada have been meeting annually since 1944. These meetings were first held by the Western Farm Economics Association and on July 21, 1967 the organization was renamed the Western Agricultural Economics Association (WAEA). A major objective of the WAEA is to promote improvement in the professional competence and standards of all members. To this end, the Western Journal of Agricultural Economics (*WJAE*) was established with the specific purpose of providing a forum for creative and scholarly work in agricultural economics and related areas. Contributions over a broad range of topics are encouraged and preference is given to articles concerned with problems and issues relevant to the Western and Great Plains regions of the United States and Canada.

The WAEA published proceedings issues for many years, while the *WJAE* was first published in June 1977 and has since been published semi-annually in July and December. All articles accepted for publication are refereed except for the invited papers at WAEA annual meetings. Since its inception, the *WJAE* has become an important publishing outlet for agricultural economists.

The prominence of the *WJAE* in agricultural economics invites a review of past issues. Classification of articles in economics journals has been a topic of considerable interest. Arnold and Barlowe classified total contributions in the Journal of Farm Economics by institutional affiliation, subject matter, and most prolific contributors for the 1919–53 period. Holland and Redman updated the results of Arnold and Barlowe by determining the institutional affiliation of the authors for the period 1953–72. Similarly, concentration of authorship was investigated by Nielson and Riley for the period 1958–63 and by Redman for the years 1966–71. Institu-

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TABLE 1. General Institutional Source of *WJAE* Articles.

Institution	Senior Authors Only		All Authors[a]	
	Percent	Number of Pages	Percent	Number of Pages
American Colleges and Universities	76.6	1,005.75	78.2	1,367.5
U.S.D.A., State Experiment Stations, and Other U.S. Government Agencies	15.1	198.25	14.5	246.5
Independent Foundations and Special Associations	5.2	68.75	4.5	78.5
Foreign Sources	3.1	41.00	3.2	56.25
	100.0	1,313.75	100.0	1,748.75

[a] Number of pages is inconsistent because each author was given full credit for all pages.

tional affiliation of authors was further investigated in the *AJAE* (formerly the *Journal of Farm Economics*) by Opaluch and Just for the 1968–72 period. Oursbourn, Hardin, and Lacewell addressed the issue of institutional affiliation in the *Southern Journal of Agricultural Economics* (*SJAE*) for the period 1969–76. This analysis covers about the same length of time used in previous studies such as those cited above.

The purpose of this paper is to classify all articles and published invited papers in the *WJAE* concerning subject matter, institutional affiliation of authors, and individual author concentration. Specifically, the plan of this paper is as follows:

(1) Present general summary statistics concerning articles contributed to the *WJAE* from its inception to date (June 1977–December 1981).
(2) Tabulate total pages published by institutional affiliation of senior author and by institutional affiliation of all authors.
(3) Summarize frequency of appearance of individual authors in the *WJAE*.
(4) Classify articles by total number of pages written in ten subject categories relevant to the *WJAE*.

Methodology

As of December 1981, 158 titles appeared in the *WJAE*. Of these, 145 were contributed articles, notes, or comments and 13 were invited papers published in the proceedings section of the *WJAE*. All papers appearing in the first issue (June 1977) were considered to be contributed articles. A total of 1,313.75 pages have been printed in the *WJAE* in a total of 11 issues. This compares with 2,191 pages in the *SJAE* in 12 issues. All printed pages including text, tables, figures, and references were tabulated. The pages were tabulated manually and each article length was estimated to the nearest ¼ page. Credit for publication was allocated in two ways. First, the institutional affiliation of the senior author was recorded and credited for the entire number of pages. Then, full credit for all pages was given to each author's institution.

Authorship by Institutional Category

As indicated in Table 1, American colleges and universities accounted for more than three-fourths of all pages printed and were by far the largest group of contributors to the *WJAE*. This same group accounted for 68.7 percent of total pages printed in the *SJAE* for the 1969–76 period. Of the 57 different institutions represented, American colleges and universities numbered 28, or 49 percent of all contributors. This group accounted for over 76 percent of all pages published when classified by senior author only and 78.2 percent when grouped by all contributing authors.

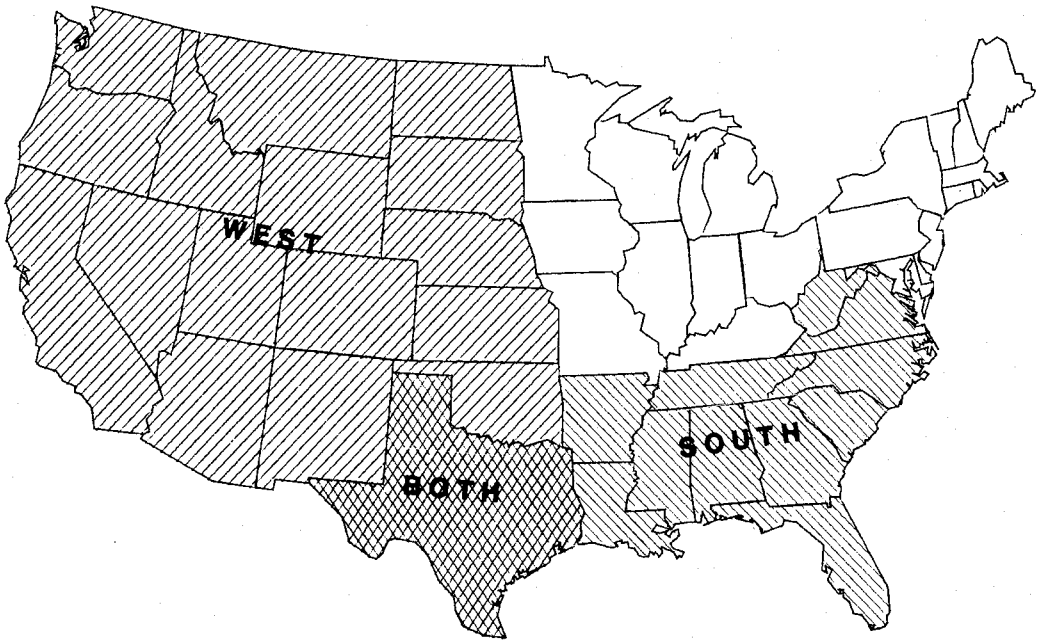

Figure 1. Geographic Groupings of Contributing States.

When grouped by all contributing authors, 56 percent of the total pages printed were contributed by institutions in 17 "Western" states. (See Figure 1 for states included in this tabulation.) The same grouping indicated that 42 percent of total pages printed in the *SJAE* were contributed by institutions in 12 "Southern" states. Due to its location and diversity in agriculture, Texas was included in both of these percentages. The U.S.D.A., foreign countries, and other national independents were not included since they could not necessarily be assigned to any one state. The U.S.D.A. and other state and federal agencies accounted for about 15 percent of all pages published when classified according to senior authors and 14.4 percent of total pages when classified by all authors. Included in this classification were articles from state experiment stations where a university or college was not designated. In most of these cases there is a close relationship between a university and the experiment station.

Independents, foundations, and others contributed 5 percent of all pages printed when grouped according to senior author affiliation and 4.4 percent when grouped according to all authors. Foreign contributors were considered to be any authors outside the United States and accounted for 3 percent of total pages in both author categories. Most foreign authors were senior author and had a co-author from an American university or institution. It is recognized that Western Canada is a formal part of the WAEA; however, Canadian contributions were classified as "Foreign."

Institutional Affiliation of Contributing Authors to the *WJAE*

A list of institutions and rankings are presented in Table 2. The left half of the table lists pages and percent contributions by senior author only and the right side lists pages and percent contributions by all authors. Under the all authors category, each institution, represented by each author, was credited with the total number

TABLE 2. Institutional Affiliation of Authors.

Institution	Senior Author			All Authors		
	Rank	Pages	Percent	Rank	Pages	Percent
U.S.D.A.	1	154.00	11.7	1	223.25	11.9
Texas A&M University	2	114.75	8.7	2	141.25	8.0
Washington State University	3	112.00	8.5	3	127.00	7.2
University of California–Davis	4	95.75	7.3	4	130.00	7.4
Oregon State University	5	88.00	6.6	5	113.75	6.5
University of Wyoming	6	62.25	4.7	6	74.50	4.2
Colorado State University	7	55.50	4.2	8	62.75	3.5
Oklahoma State University	8	40.75	3.1	7	63.25	3.6
Utah State University	9	32.50	2.4	16	32.50	1.8
North Dakota State University	10	30.75	2.3	9	46.25	2.6
University of Arizona	11	30.25	2.3	11	41.25	2.3
Cornell University	12	28.75	2.1	18	28.75	1.6
University of Minnesota	13	27.75	2.1	19	27.75	1.5
University of Wisconsin	14	27.75	2.1	20	27.75	1.5
Kansas State University	15	25.00	1.9	13	35.1	2.0
University of Nevada	16	24.50	1.8	17	31.5	1.8
New Mexico State University	17	22.50	1.7	15	33.75	1.9
Texas A&M Experiment Station	18	22.00	1.6	21	22.00	1.2
University of Georgia	19	21.75	1.6	22	21.75	1.2
Montana State University	20	20.00	1.5	14	36.25	2.0
Iowa State University	21	16.25	1.2	10	44.25	2.5
Resources for the Future	22	16.25	1.2	25	16.25	.9
University of Kentucky	23	15.00	1.1	27	15.00	.8
Texas Tech University	24	14.5	1.1	28	14.50	.8
University of Manitoba	25	14.5	1.1	29	14.50	.8
University of Florida	26	14.0	1.0	30	14.00	.7
Columbia University	27	13.75	1.0	31	14.00	.7
University of Nebraska	28	11.25	.8	12	37.75	2.1
Mississippi State University	29	11.25	.8	33	11.25	.6
Electric Power Research Research Institute	30	10.5	.8	34	10.50	.6
British Columbia Inst. for Policy	31	10.5	.8	36	10.50	.6
Inst. for Food Policy Research	32	10.5	.8	37	10.50	.6
Center of Agricultural R&D	33	9.5	.7	39	9.50	.5
Purdue University	34	9.25	.7	40	9.25	.5
Brookings Institute	35	8.75	.6	43	8.75	.4
Mexican National School of Ag.	36	8.00	.6	44	8.00	.4
University of Hawaii	37	8.00	.6	45	8.00	.4
University of Saskatchewan	38	8.00	.6	46	8.00	.4
Gianini Foundation	39	7.75	.6	47	7.75	.4
University of Idaho	40	7.75	.6	48	7.75	.4
University of Massachusetts	41	7.75	.6	49	7.75	.4
Commodity Futures Trading Comm.	42	7.0	.5	50	7.00	.3
Kansas Ag. Experiment Sta.	43	6.5	.5	51	6.5	.3
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	44	6.5	.5	52	6.5	.3
University of Missouri	45	6.25	.4	23	21.25	1.2
General Foods Inc.	46	6.00	.4	53	6.0	.3
University of Illinois	47	4.75	.3	24	19.25	1.1
Texas A&I	48	3.5	.2	55	3.5	.1
California Dept. of Ag. and Food	49	2.25	.1	56	2.25	.1
Stanford University	50	2.00	.1	57	2.00	.1
Oxford University	51			26	15.25	.9
Western Illinois University	52			32	13.5	.7
North Carolina State University	53			35	11.00	.6

TABLE 2. Continued.

Institution	Senior Author			All Authors		
	Rank	Pages	Percent	Rank	Pages	Percent
Brigham Young University	54			38	10.50	.6
Cleveland State University				41	9.25	.5
Indiana Farm Bureau Cooperative				42	9.25	.5
Loyola University				54	4.5	.2
		1,313.75	100.00		1,748.75	100.00

of pages in the article; subsequently, the totals for pages contributed are not the same. There is double counting for the all authors column any time there are two or more authors on an article. However, this was considered when computing the contribution percentages. The most prolific contributors were U.S.D.A. employees with over 11 percent of all pages in the senior author category and the all author category. This compares with over 20 percent of all pages published in the *SJAE* by the U.S.D.A. affiliated authors (Oursbourn *et al.*). U.S.D.A. authors are followed closely by authors from Texas A&M, Washington State, and University of California–Davis with 8.7, 8.5, and 7.3 percent of total pages, respectively. The top ten contributors have nearly identical rankings in the senior author and all author categories with the exception of Utah State University and Iowa State University. Utah State is sixteenth in the all author category and ninth in the senior author category. Iowa State ranks tenth in the all author category and twenty-first in the senior author grouping. With this exception, there is very little variation in ranking among the top ten contributors. However, among other contributors there is a considerable difference in ranking between the senior author and all author categories.

Concentration of Authorship in the *WJAE*

There have been 231 different contributing authors in the *WJAE*. Of these, 110 were contributors only once and were also senior authors. Thirty-seven authors appeared in the *WJAE* as a senior or co-author more than once and 12 authors appeared three or more times. Only 2 authors contributed four different articles and these two appeared as co-authors in all four instances; four contributions were the maximum for any one author.

Classification of Articles by Subject Category

Contributions were also classified by subject category. The categories used were basically the same as those used by Holland and Redman for the *AJAE* and Oursbourn *et al.* for the *SJAE*. Table 3 presents the ten subject categories, number of pages, and percent of total pages by category. Articles were classified by title when possible. However, this approach proved quite subjective and where the title was not adequate the article was read or scanned to determine its intent and purpose. Fellow staff members were consulted as to the proper classification of particularly difficult categorizations. In all cases, the primary emphasis of an article determined the classification.

Natural Resources and Environmental Issues was the largest category in total number of pages with 19.4 percent. Domestic Development, Agricultural Policy, Production Economics, and Commodities (Supply, Demand, and Prices) followed with 18, 12, 11.9, and 11.5 percent, respectively. However, Domestic Development had the greatest number of articles

TABLE 3. Subject Classification of Articles Published in the *WJAE*.

Category	Pages	Percent of Total Pages
Natural Resources and Environmental Issues	255.25	19.4
Domestic Development; Human, Regional, Labor Income; Sociology, etc.	237.5	18.0
Agricultural Policy	157.75	12.0
Production Economics	157.25	11.9
Commodities; Supply; Demand; Prices	152.25	11.6
General Agriculture Economics	104.75	8.1
Farm Finance; Credit; Capital	94.25	7.2
Marketing; Storage; Distribution	60.5	4.7
Teaching Research—Extension Methods	52.5	4.0
Foreign Development and Trade	41.75	3.1
	1,313.75	100.0

with a total of 30, followed closely by Natural Resources and Environmental Issues with 28. The remaining 27 percent of total pages was accounted for by the other five categories with General Agricultural Economics being the largest of this group with about 8 percent of total pages. Foreign Development and Trade was the smallest category, accounting for slightly over 3 percent of total printed pages. Even though the time periods considered are different, it is interesting to compare these results to similar rankings in the *SJAE* study by Oursbourn *et al.*Over the 1969–76 period, the *SJAE* study revealed that domestic development, production, marketing, and resources were the most popular topics accounting for 22, 16, 15, and 12 percent, respectively, of the total pages published. Agricultural policy was fifth with 8.7 percent of total pages. Four of these top five categories are the same as those in the *WJAE*, but natural resources and environmental issues was ranked first in the *WJAE*. Foreign development and trade was ranked last in both journals.

Conclusions

Major conclusions of this study can be summarized as follows:

1) The U.S.D.A. was the major contributor to the *WJAE* over the study period, accounting for 11.7 percent of all pages printed.
2) American colleges and universities contributed over 75 percent of all pages published; however, there is no dominance by any one institution. The top contributing university was Texas A&M with 8.7 percent of total pages printed with only three other universities contributing over 5 percent.
3) Of 231 different authors, 49 appeared more than once and only 2 appeared four times, which was the maximum prolificacy.
4) The four major topics of interest were natural resources and environmental issues, domestic development, production, and commodities, in that order.
5) While there were contributions from a geographically wide range of institutions, a majority originated from western and midwestern states.

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